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Dodd Double Charge For Air Fare Alleged

By E. W. KENWORTHY
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WASHINGTON, July 21—On a trip to California in February, 1964, Senator Thomas J. Dodd is reported to have charged the air travel to both the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Senate Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency.

It was learned today that the Senate ethics committee, which is inquiring into charges of misconduct against the Connecticut Democrat, knows of this double collection and is investigating it. Senator Dodd could not be reached late today for comment.

According to records in the office of the Secretary of the Senate, Senator Dodd flew to Los Angeles on Feb. 26, 1964, leaving from Baltimore Friendship Airport, and returned to Washington on March 4. On Feb. 27 he was the main speaker at a dinner of the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce.

After the Senator's return, Michael O'Hare, then a special assistant in Mr. Dodd's office, wrote a letter on the Senator's letterhead, dated March 9, to Victor Stark, executive secretary of the Los Angeles Jaycees.

Mr. O'Hare said:

"Senator Dodd's air fare to Los Angeles was \$320.78. Your check should be made payable to Senator Dodd."

The Jaycees paid this amount by check dated March 26, 1964.

In the report of the Secretary of the Senate for the period July 1, 1964, to Dec. 31, 1964, in the section on disbursements from the contingent fund, there is the following entry:

"83 American Airlines, Inc.

For transportation furnished the subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary, to investigate juvenile delinquency, under authority of S. Res. 274, agreed to Feb. 10, 1964.

"1964.
Feb. 26 — Mar. 4: Baltimore Md., to Los Angeles, Calif., to Washington, D.C. (Senator Dodd)" In the next column is the disbursement — \$320.78.

Aide in Los Angeles

At the same time, according to records of disbursements for car hire, Eugene Gleason, a member of the juvenile delinquency subcommittee, was also in Los Angeles.

In a telephone interview today, Mr. Gleason said he had gone out to California before Mr. Dodd and stayed on after the Senator left.

Mr. Gleason said he had been conducting inquiries into several aspects of the subcommittee's work, but particularly into mail-order gun sales and the problem of "percodan" addiction.

"Percodan" is a synthetic drug that has characteristics of opium derivatives. At that time it could be purchased without prescription, and there was considerable agitation to have it classified as a "Class A" prescription drug.

Asked whether Senator Dodd had held any hearings while in Los Angeles, Mr. Gleason said that he had not. But, Mr. Gleason added, the Senator did talk about problems of juvenile delinquency, including the use of "percodan," with Mayor Samuel W. Yorty of Los Angeles.

Mr. Gleason said also that Mr. Dodd had wanted to talk to him about the results of his investigation.

Mr. Stark said in a telephone interview that the Jaycees did not offer to pay expenses of invited speakers and seldom did so.

"But when a bill is presented," he said, "we say, 'Gee, we didn't expect to pay but here it is.'"

He said that is what the Jaycees did when it got the Senator's bill.

He said the dinner committee decided to ask Mr. Dodd to be the speaker after reading a newspaper story that there was a "likelihood" the Senator would hold hearings in Los Angeles on "percodan."